was found to be more economic than entrusting the work to private agencies on commission. Further, the services of the clerk would be of help in carrying on correspondence for the purchase of stores, in keeping accounts, packing and distributing goods from the reserve stock, etc. Their services are at present non-pensionable. To meet the increased work in the office of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, an additional clerk on Rs. 25 has also been temporarily sanctioned in the course of the year. Provision has been made for the continuance of the post in 1105.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—A noticeable feature of the budget estimate under this head for the ensuing year is the increased provision made for the 'Town Improvement Works' in Municipalities. Government have been considering whether it would not be a step in the right direction if the maintenance of the trunk roads under Municipalities be taken over by the State Public Works Department instead of burdening the Municipalities with the expenditure therefor, and they have now decided to take them over. The details of the scheme have not been decided on and it will be done in consultation with the Chairmen of the Municipalities concerned.

Public Works.—The budget estimate for the next year is fixed at Rs. 18,22,900, as against the revised estimate of Rs. 13,22,800, the provisions under 'Civil Engineering' and 'Mechanical Engineering' being Rs. 15,47,800 and Rs. 2,75,100 respectively. For 'Communications' a sum of Rs. 4,61,659 is set apart, and this includes provision for opening several new roads and for investigations in connection with the Hydro-electric Scheme. This latter scheme had been engaging the attention of an ex-Diwan, Mr. Bhore, and the Government consider it desirable to make a further investigation in the matter which, if attended with success, will be of lasting benefit to the State and the people in several directions. More about this, my friend, the Member for 'Public Works', will explain when his turn comes. 'Buildings' take up an allotment of Rs 7,35,431, the large increase under the head as compared with the revised estimate of the current year being chiefly due to a lump provision of Rs. 3,00,000 made for shifting the Maharaja's College to Anappara. The several works proposed to be taken up being detailed in the Appendix to the budget, I do not consider it necessary to make any remarks here explaining the allotment. The provision of Rs. 1,54,884 made under 'Irrigation' includes a lump allotment of Rs. 14,000 for investigation of irrigation projects in the State.

Under 'Mecqanical and Electrical Engineering' provision has been made for the original works in the 3rd stage of the

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Mattancheri Water Works. Special mention may also be made of the Trichur Water Supply and the Ayilur Water Supply schemes for which provisions of Rs. 30,000 and Rs.8,000 respectively have been made.

Scientific, etc., Departments.—The budget estimate anticipates an increase of Rs. 37,500 over the revised estimate of Rs. 1,24,900, the main increase being under 'Industries' due to the provision of Rs. 25,000 made for Workshop equipment in the G. T. School, Trichur. This as well as the other variations have been explained in the memorandum furnished with the budget estimate and I shall not take up more time on this at present.

Uplift of the Depressed Classes.—An increased provision of Rs. 11,500 has been made as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 73,300. For the organisation of co-operative societies among the depressed classes and for their effective supervision a full-time Co-operative Inspector has been appointed as already explained when dealing with the Co-operative Department; additional allotment is made under water-supply; provision has been made for opening additional divisions and classes; increased allotment has also been provided for aiding new schools specially intended for our depressed brethren.

Miscellaneous.—Passing on, I come to the last head of expenditure, viz., 'Miscellaneous' the budget under which is fixed at Rs. 3,58,400 thus exceeding the revised estimate by Rs. 2,26,500. This large increase is due to the enhanced provision made under 'Entertainment of State Guests' towards the expenses in connection with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and the lump provision of Rs. 2,50,000 made for the re-organisation of Departments after consideration of the report of the Special Finance Committee. The scrutiny of the report in the light of the recommendations made by the Council during the Special Session has almost been completed and it is hoped to effect the reorganisations during the early part of next year.

Our Surplus.—I am afraid, there is a strong impression gaining ground that the State is now on a mistaken policy of hoarding surpluses instead of utilising them for useful public activities in connection with the development of irrigation, industries, etc. Though to a casual observer the net surplus of Rs. 88·62 lakhs anticipated at the end of the current year may appear a huge and unnecessary one displaying bankruptcy of statesmanship, I am certain that a careful student of the State finances will, on going into the question a little deeper, find to his surprise that this is after all a surplus on books and that it

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